United Nations CEDAW/C/2000/II/1

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Twenty-third session
12 June-30 June 2000

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of the reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-third session.

Annotations

Item 1. Opening of the session

The twenty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17 to 22 of the Convention, giving priority to items the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

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At its twenty-second session the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its twenty-third session.

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups, namely Working Group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee, and Working Group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. The specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations that could make substantive contributions to questions under consideration could be invited by the working group to contribute to its deliberations.

The proposed organization of work for the twenty-third session is shown in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2000/II/1)

Item 3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Committee

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided to include an item that would permit the Chairperson to brief the Committee on activities and events occurring since the previous session that had a bearing on the Committee's work.

Item 4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures that they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and other progress made in this respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

At its twenty-second session, the Committee, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States parties whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the need to give priority to initial reports and the desirability of balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors, decided to invite eight States parties to present their reports. Seven States parties agreed to that request.

At its twenty-third session, the Committee will have before it the following reports: the initial report of Cameroon (CEDAW/C/CMR/1); the initial and second reports of Lithuania (CEDAW/C/LTU/1) and (CEDAW/C/LTU/2); the initial report of the Republic of Moldova (CEDAW/C/MDA/1); the combined second and third periodic report of Iraq (CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3); the combined third and fourth, and fifth periodic reports of Austria (CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4) and (CEDAW/C/AUT/5); the fourth periodic report of Cuba (CEDAW/C/CUB/4); and the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Romania (CEDAW/C/ROM/4-5).

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of a State party shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the report of the State is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the reports. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its twenty-third session.

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee, at its twenty-third session, will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the submission of the reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/2000/II/2).

The Committee decided at its ninth session that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare a list of issues and questions relating to periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. At its nineteenth session the Committee decided that the pre-session working group would meet at the end of the session prior to which second and subsequent reports would be considered. The pre-session working group for the twenty-third session met in New York, from 7 to 11 February 2000.

Documentation

Initial report of Cameroon (CEDAW/C/CMR/1)

Initial report of the Republic of Moldova (CEDAW/C/MDA/1)

Initial and second reports of Lithuania (CEDAW/C/LTU/1) and (CEDAW/C/LTU/2)

Combined second and third periodic report of Iraq (CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3)

Combined third and fourth and fifth periodic reports of Austria (CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4) and (CEDAW/C/AUT/5)

Fourth periodic report of Cuba (CEDAW/C/CUB/4)

Combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Romania (CEDAW/C/ROM/4-5)

Report of the pre-session working group

CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.1

CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.1/Add.1 (Austria)

CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.1/Add.2 (Cuba)

CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.1/Add.3 (Iraq)

CEDAW/PSWG/2000/I/CRP.1/Add.4 (Romania)

Responses to list of issues

CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.2 (Austria)

CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.2/Add.1 (Cuba)

CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.2/Add.2 (Iraq)

CEDAW/PSWG/2000/II/CRP.2/Add.3 (Romania)

Item 5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of the reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that those suggestions and general recommendations shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee, in plenary, information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions.

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented during the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in those areas. At its twenty-third session, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3 and addenda).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of the specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3)

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.1)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.3)

Report of the International Labour Organization (CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.4)

Item 6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

At its twelfth session, the Committee decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee, containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee or developments elsewhere in the human rights regime. In view of the fact that the Committee has been authorized to hold two sessions annually, the Secretariat has decided to provide the Committee with a report on ways and means at each session (CEDAW/C/2000/II/4).

At its twenty-second session, the Committee decided to continue the consideration of its rules of procedure at its twenty-third session, based on a working paper integrating discussions that took place during the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions and proposals and amendments made by the Committee members. That working paper is contained in document CEDAW/C/2000/I/WP.1.

At its twenty-second session the Committee designated one of its members to prepare a working paper on proposed procedures with regard to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The working paper is contained in document CEDAW/C/2000/II/WP.2.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/2000/II/4)

Draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1)

Proposals on draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/2000/I/WG.I/WP.1)

Report on the optional protocol to the Convention (CEDAW/C/2000/II/WP.2)

Item 7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-third session

Annex

Proposed organization of work

Monday, 12 June 2000

446th meeting

10 a.m.	*Item 1*	Opening of the session
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	Item 3	Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Committee
	Item 5	Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: introductory statement
	Item 6	Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee: introductory statement
3 p.m. (Closed meeting)	*Items 5 and 6*	Working Group of the Whole: composition of Working Groups I and II and issues for discussion

Tuesday, 13 June 2000

10-11.30 a.m. (Closed meeting)		Informal meeting with United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies
11.30-1 p.m. (Closed meeting)	*Items 5 and 6*	Working Group of the Whole
3-4.30 p.m.		Informal meeting with non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
4.30-6 p.m. (Closed meeting)	*Items 5 and 6*	Working Group of the Whole

Wednesday, 14 June 2000

447th meeting

10-10.30 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties combined, second and third periodic report (CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3)
10.30-11.30 a.m.		Introduction by State party's representative
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

448th meeting

3 p.m.	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Iraq, combined second and third periodic report (CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3)
(Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole

Thursday, 15 June 2000

449th meeting

10-10.30 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Items 5 and 6*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties Austria, combined third and fourth periodic report (CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4) and fifth periodic report (CEDAW/C/AUT/5)
10.30-11.30 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.30-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

450th meeting

3 p.m.	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Austria, combined third and fourth periodic report (CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4), and fifth periodic report (CEDAW/C/AUT/5)
(Closed meeting)	*Items 5 and 6*	Working Group of the Whole

Friday, 16 June 2000

451st meeting

10-10.30 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties Lithuania, initial and second reports (CEDAW/C/LTU/1 and CEDAW/C/LTU/2)
10.30-11.15 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.15-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

452nd meeting

3 p.m.	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Lithuania, initial and second reports (CEDAW/C/LTU/1 and CEDAW/C/LTU/2)
(Closed meeting)	*Items 5 and 6*	Working Group of the Whole

Monday, 19 June 2000

453rd meeting

10-10.30 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties Cuba, fourth report (CEDAW/C/CUB/4)
10.30-11.30 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.30-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

454th meeting

3 p.m.	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Cuba, fourth report (CEDAW/C/CUB/4)
(Closed meeting)	*Items 5 and 6*	Working Group of the Whole

Tuesday, 20 June 2000

455th meeting

10-10.30 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties Cameroon, initial report (CEDAW/C/CMR/1)
10.30-11.30 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.30-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

456th meeting

3 p.m.	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Cameroon, initial report (CEDAW/C/CMR/1)
(Closed meeting)	*Items 5 and 6*	Working Group of the Whole

Wednesday, 21 June 2000

457th meeting

10-10.30 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Consideration of the reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Republic of Moldova, initial report (CEDAW/C/MDA/1)
10.30-11.30 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.30-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

458th meeting

3 p.m.	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Republic of Moldova, initial report (CEDAW/C/MDA/1)
(Closed meeting)	*Items 5 and 6*	Working Group of the Whole

Thursday, 22 June 2000

459th meeting

10 a.m.	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Replies (Lithuania)
(Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole
3 p.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole

Friday, 23 June 2000		
460th meeting		
10-10.30 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Romania, combined fourth and fifth periodic report (CEDAW/C/ROM/4-5)
10.30-11.30 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by the experts and dialogue with the Committee
461st meeting		
3 p.m.	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*) Romania, combined fourth and fifth periodic report (CEDAW/C/ROM/4-5)
(Closed meeting)	*Items 5 and 6*	Working Group of the Whole
Monday, 26 June 2000		
462nd meeting		
10 a.m.	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties Replies (Cameroon)
3 p.m.	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole
(Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole
Tuesday, 27 June 2000		
463rd meeting		
10 a.m.	*Item 4*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties Replies (Republic of Moldova)
(Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole
3 p.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole
Wednesday, 28 June 2000		
10 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole
3 p.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole
Thursday, 29 June 2000		
10 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole
3 p.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole

Friday, 30 June 2000

10 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 4*	Working Group of the Whole

464th meeting

3 p.m.	*Items 5 and 6*	Adoption of the reports of Working Groups I and II
	Item 7	Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session
	Item 8	Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-third session